

And Baby Makes

by BlueBlood82

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Summary: Fourth Installment of the Tough Universe - Lila and Steven anxiously await becoming parents while life happens all around them. Please join the family as Jamie and Eddie reach the life milestone of becoming grandparents!

## 1. Chapter 1

### Chapter One

"Are you excited honey?" Eddie asked Lila as they headed to the maternity clinic at Lutheran Hospital for Lila's first ultrasound.

"Yes, I can't wait to hear the baby's heartbeat and get a little picture to show off," Lila replied.

"How's the sickness?" Over the last couple of weeks, Lila's morning sickness had increased to several times a day.

"It's the same," Lila sighed. "I throw up, I eat, and then I throw up what I ate. I'm going to talk to the doctor."

"It's normal, sweetie," Eddie soothed. "It really is. I was so sick when I was having your brotherâ€|a little less with you. It's the mark of a healthy baby but if you feel like it's too much for you, then talk to your doctor."

Lila signed in and sat down. She looked around, most of the women had their husbands there. Lila sighed and Eddie took her hand. "It's the life we chose, sweetheart," Eddie reminded her. "We chose men who chose a life of service. When I was sick, you barely remember that, but I had my very first radiation appointment and I was scared stiff. Dad promised me he was going to be there for me but who ended up taking me, Grandpa Frank."

"God bless, Grandpa Frank," Lila laughed. "You know he offered to go to the childbirth class to refresh his memory incase Steven is at a fire when the baby is born?"

Eddie laughed, "For ninety-four he is feisty. I think that's how he's still with us."

Lila smile, "I know he's getting worse, he's on the oxygen more now and do you think he'll see the baby born?"

"Lila the doctors haven't even dared to put an estimate on Grandpa Frank. He will be here long after the baby comes, believe you me."

"Lila Tenney," the nurse called out.

Lila and Eddie stood up and followed her. Lila was weighed, "111 lbs, you have gained five pounds since your last appointment."

"That's a little much isn't it, considering I can't keep food down?" Lila asked.

"Well, it's not just food, honey," Eddie replied. "Let's just relax." Eddie shook her head. She's her father's daughter.

Lila laid down on the bed and waited for the sonogram technician to come in. "I have to pee so bad," Lila laughed. "I hate this part."

"Yes, but in a few minutes you can hear the baby's heart and see it's little body. Dad is so excited to see the picture."

"Steven is too, his parents weren't as excited as we hoped."

"You two haven't been married that long, honey," Eddie reasoned. "But if you have this gift, and it is a gift, then you accept it like you promised when you got married."

"Hello, Lila, I'm Misty, I'll be doing you ultrasound today." Misty was very tall, with flowing dark hair. She made Eddie and Lila feel smaller than they actually were. "Lie back and we'll get a look at that little one."

Misty put the cold gel on Lila's belly and slowly started to move the transducer around. "There we go," she smiled when she found the baby. Misty studied the screen, "Oh boy!"

"What?" Lila held tight to Eddie's hand in fear. "What's wrong?"

Misty smiled, "Nothing at all. I'm just going to get Dr. Mianni."

Lila looked up at Eddie, tears already streaming down her cheeks. "Mom, there's something wrong with it," Lila hiccupped.

"Hush, now," Eddie comforted not for the first time when Lila got upset wishing Jamie was there. "It's all right, baby. She said nothing was wrong, just relax.'

A minute later, the doctor came in. "I'm sorry, Lila. Misty is a newer tech and she wanted me to confirm what she saw. There's no reason to cry."

The doctor turn the screen, "Do you see that little spot there with the blink? That is your baby and its heart beat."

"Is it okay?" Eddie asked for Lila.

"It's fine," Dr. Mianni replied. "And so is this baby. You're having twins, Lila."

Lila went to crying from fear to crying for joy in less than a minute. The doctor turned on the sound and two very strong heartbeats filled the room.

"Oh my God, Mom!" Lila gasped. "Oh my God!"

"Congratulations, baby," Eddie replied kissing her head. "Can we have two copies of the pictures?"

Lila looked at her mom, "What? Dad wants to start a book for the baby or babies as the case is now. He is so excited."

Lila smiled and chatted with Eddie while the doctor did the internal exam. "You are right on target for twins, Lila. I know the morning sickness is a little intense, that's because of the double hormones so if it gets too bad, call my office."

"I was thinking it was a little much, but now it makes more sense," Lila laughed, sitting up and taking the copies of the pictures.

On the way out she made her appoint for the next month then headed out with Eddie to go to lunch. "Do you want to stop by the firehouse to see Steven?" Eddie asked.

"No, I think I'll wait until we're at home to tell him. You want to stop by 1 PP?"

"Oh no, I have had enough of that place to last me a lifetime. The last time I was there workingâ€|. "

Lila squeezed Eddie's hand, "I know Mom. I knowâ€| "

Eddie and Lila had a celebratory lunch, then headed for home. "Well, how is our girl?" Frank asked. "The baby okay?"

"Oh yes, everything is just fine," Eddie replied wanting to tell Jamie and Frank at the same time. "What time did Jamie say he was going to be home?"

"He said six," Frank replied. "What's for dinner tonight?"

"Beef stew," Eddie replied. "The Irish kind." She got to work on carrots and potatoes to put in the stew. Once it was on the heat, Eddie sat down in the living room with Frank. "How you feeling, Dad?"

"Good, I had a good day. Joey's Molly came by and Linda was here for

a bit too. Jack is so happy with Rita and I think she will fit in just right as the Commissioner's wife. Those my dear are huge shoes to fill."

Eddie blushed, "I'm not that much of an asset to him. Jamie is the one they all look at."

"Jamie is who he is because of you," Frank told Eddie. She smiled and looked at the clock, almost six.

"You're anxious to tell him something," Frank laughed. "Or is it to show off your grandbaby? Trust me there is nothing like it, I've been a grandpa five times over. I can't wait for my great-grandchild."

Eddie smiled, 'I'm anxious because he's been working too late again."

"He's fine, he's strong and fine," Frank smiled and went back to watching the news.

Jamie let himself in the backdoor at 6:02. He was excited to see the picture of his first grandchild. "Eddie! Dad!" Jamie called not seeing either one in the kitchen. "In here," Eddie called hurrying to her purse to get the picture out.

Jamie pulled her in as she passed the door way and kissed her. "Hello, Beautyâ€|" He laughed and snuggled her close.

"Helloâ€|What did you do?" Eddie laughed.

"I screwed up big time, forgot to get the milk," Jamie laughed. "Nothing, I'm just excited to see that picture."

Eddie pushed open the kitchen door, sure enough, the milk was on the table. "I was going to get it when you ambushed me. Sit down and I'll show you both together."

Jamie sat down on the couch and kicked off his shoes. He removed his leg brace and rubbed the skin under his sock. "Sore?" Frank asked.

"Irritated," Jamie replied. "It's no big deal."

All of the remaining deficits and problems from his stroke Jamie considered to be "no big deal."

Eddie returned the ultrasound picture. "Okayâ€|here you goâ€| This here is his or her little head, and that's the spine formingâ€|and thatâ€|" She pointed to Baby B. "Is the other little head and part of a shoulderâ€|"

"Wait a minuteâ€|" Frank said sitting up as Jamie's face broke into a huge smile.

"Twins," Eddie confirmed with a smile of her own. "Lila is a little freaked but she knows she'll have all the support in the world."

Jamie kissed Eddie's lips, "This Sunday, we're ordering out for

Indian!"

A few blocks away Lila set the table and waited for Steven to come home while she roasted a chicken. She put her hands on her belly and smiled, "Hi, babiesâ€| Mommy is so excited to meet you in six months and Daddy is going to be so excited too. Whether you are boys, girls, or one of each, it won't matter to us. We are going to love youâ€|" She heard Steven's key in the door.

Lila turned and smiled at her husband when he stepped inside. "There's my handsome man," she sighed and moved over to hug him. "Oh, you smell like smoke."

Steven nodded, "Two alarm on the other side of town. No one hurt, we even got the furry critters out. Those signs, please save my dogs, they workâ€|"

Steven dropped into the big old leather chair they bought second hand at a yard sale. "How was your day?"

"It was good. Mom and I went to my doctor's appointment and to lunch," Lila replied. "And we made some lists of things we'll need to get for the when the babies are born." Lila handed the list to Steven.

"A new houseâ€|" Steven began reading, not comprehending yet that Lila had said "babies". "Two cribs, two bouncy seatsâ€| Honey, I know your parents really want to help with the baby but it doesn't need a duplicate of everything at their house!"

Lila started to laugh, "I guess I should have said four cribs, and four bouncy seatsâ€|" Lila draped her arms around Steven's shoulders holding the ultrasound pictures in front of him.

"Is this from today? Did the doctor say the baby was okay?" Steven asked rubbing his wife's arms.

"She said they are both fine," Lila said softly. "We're having twins, Steven."

If Steven wasn't sitting down, he'd have fallen down. "Twâ€| Twins? Like two babies at once?"

Steven wasn't sure he was ready for one child, especially one being born into the Reagan family and all that entailed.

"Yes, I was surprised too." She moved around and sat on Steven's lap. "Mom offered to help of course. She was telling Dad and Grandpa tonight and we'll tell the family on Sunday. How do you feel about this?"

Steven sighed, "Doesn't really matter does it? We are having twinsâ€| and that is a blessing it's justâ€|"

"Just?" Lila asked trying not to get upset until she listened.

"We are just married, we are just starting out. We don't have money for things like a new house and everything. You won't be able to go back to school for a whileâ€| we won't have two incomes for years."

Lila nodded, "I know. I'm sure we can get some things second hand. We don't have to get a house, we can just get a bigger apartment."

Steven smiled and rubbed Lila's arms, "Yeah, we can do thisâ€|I just panicked for a minute but we can do this."

Lila kissed Steven softly on the lips, "We can do anything together. We're having twins, Steven. In six months we will have two boys, two girls, or one of eachâ€|we'll have a family."

Steven smiled and kissed Lila's head, "Yes, we will. Our own little family, Lila. Our own perfect little family."

\*\*A/N: Two new little Reagans, well Tenneys, are on their way. Are Lila and Steven really ready for this? I hope you enjoy this installment as much as the previous three. Special thanks to Lawslave, Werks, and Yanks20 for assisting me with various portions of this story. This proved to be more challenging than other stories and their feedback was helpful along the way! \*\*

## 2. Chapter 2

### Chapter Two

"How are you feeling, Lila?" Linda asked as they women worked on Sunday dinner.

"Okay, the morning sickness tends to end by about 2 or 3 in the afternoon and I have to pee about three times an hour but aside from that I feel good. The doctor is happy with my weight and all, I'm doing really well."

"That's good to hear," Erin replied hugging her goddaughter with one arm. "Did you get a picture?"

"Yeah, we have a couple of pictures but I figured I'd just show you after dinner," Lila brushed it off and worked on the mashed potatoes. She and Steven planned to tell everyone else about the twins including her brother during the meal.

Eddie hid a smile as she worked on snapping green beans. She was having some trouble with them given her left hand was swelling again more than it had been. Jamie hadn't noticed it yet and she didn't plan to mention it.

Linda however notices when she called for the beans and Eddie was only half done. She took Eddie's enlarged left hand in her own, "How long has it been like this?"

Lila turned to see, "Mom? Was it like that at the doctor?"

Eddie shook her head, "It's fine, I slept on my arm the other night, and it made some fluid build. I'm fine, stop fussing and not a word to Jamie."

Erin raised an eyebrow, "Eddie, he should know so he can help."

"He's got new hires coming and he's looking to fill two seats on the EDP commission, he's under stress and I don't want to make it worse."

"Mom, if it's still like that when we have Wednesday dinnerâ€|" Lila warned but Eddie brushed her off. "Help me finish these beans."

"Steven, you are very quiet today," Joey commented as the men watched basketball on TV. "That was some fire on 96th the other day."

"Yeah, it was. We got everyone out alive, that's a good day at the office," Steven replied sipping his beer. "I read in the paper that you finally got that Easter Bunny guy."

Joey nodded, "Yeah, he raped fifteen women but we got him."

"All that counts at the end of the day son," Jamie reminded his boy. "You worked hard on that case, you treated each and every woman with dignity and compassion and slowly through that you got enough information to nail him. You did me proud, you did this family proud."

Danny and Frank quickly agreed raising their glasses to Joey. "He was attaching older women, you know? All the while I kept thinking about Mom, Aunt Erin, Aunt Linda, if it was one of them, how would I want the detective to react."

"That's a good rule of thumb in SVU," Frank replied. "I was always surprised that your Dad never tried to transfer into it."

Jamie raised an eyebrow at Frank, "You'd never have signed off on that and by the time I was able to move up, I had two kids and an ailing wife. I did my best and I liked working with the kids."

"You did well son, the department has never had clearance rates as high as it has now, and you're training of young Jackâ€|"

Danny smiled, for all the times he poked at Jamie, he was glad he took his Jack under his wing. Jack had a fiancÃ©e now, a girl ten years his junior, but with spunk and fire. Rita and Joey's girl, Molly got along very well.

Jamie was watching the clock, "I'm going to see what is going on with dinner."

Jamie pushed up and headed to the kitchen just as Erin emerged with the first of the side dishes, "I was just about to call you. Dinner's ready."

This weeks' table was missing Jack and Sean, but included Rita and Molly. They had each lent a hand to the preparation of the family meal. "Steven," Jamie said surprising everyone, even Eddie. "Would you like to say grace?"

Steven smiled, "I would." He bowed his head and asked the prayer over the food and the family. Jamie carved the roast and began to pass the plates. As the aroma of the roasted lamb met Lila's nostrils, she covered her mouth and bolted towards the bathroom with great

speed.

Erin laughed, "I guess it was too much for her." Steven started to rise to check on his wife but Jamie held up his hand, "Let her have her privacy, son. She'll call you if she feels the need."

Steven had a hard time sitting still, but soon Lila returned, offering a smile and resumed her seat. Joey had made her plate minus the offensive lamb. No one mentioned her hurried departure from the table, no one wanted to embarrass her.

The table talk centered on Steven's fire and Joey's big collar until the family began to sit back, satisfied. Lila looked at Steven, "Go ahead honey," she pressed.

Steven smiled, "Uh, while most of us are here together, Lila and I have an announcement."

"You can't know the sex, not already," Linda surmised.

"No, no that's not itâ€¦but we figure that we might as well give you all a head start on your shopping. This week, Lila and I found out we are going to have twinsâ€¦"

"Oh my goodness!" Linda hurried to hug Lila followed by Erin and Danny. Finally Joey hugged his little sister, "Way to go, Sis! You're going to name one after me if you have boys right?"

Lila hugged Joey back, "We shall see, brother dear," she laughed. "I think one Joseph Reagan is enough for now."

"This calls for a toast," Frank announced. "Danny, pour the champagne except for Lilaâ€¦there's cider for her."

"You mean you knew?" Danny asked looking at Frank. "We police commissioner's know everything."

When the house was quiet and Frank sound asleep, Jamie and Eddie went upstairs to their room. Jamie sat on the bed, removed his pants, socks, and leg brace. "Eddie, can you get me some of that triple a cream?"

Eddie quickly produced the cream and handed it to Jamie, "Is your leg swelling in the brace, honey?" she asked.

"No, it's just so hot that my foot starts to sweat and it's rubbing. Do you think it'll go over my sock?"

Eddie thought, "We can try tomorrow. Do you need help with your shirt?"

"No, I got it." Jamie sighed. It wasn't likely Eddie could help him with his buttons anyway. He'd caught a few glimpses of her hand at dinner, it was swollen so badly that it would certainly impede her ability to use her hand.

Jamie undressed and got into bed. Eddie spent time in the bathroom putting on her creams so Jamie didn't notice how swelled up she was. If he wasn't working so hard, she's tell him outright, but he was and she was concerned for him.

When Eddie got into bed and rolled over to curl next to Jamie, he moved away. "What's wrong? Didn't we have a lovely evening? Everyone is so happy for Lila."

"I'm happy for her too," Jamie replied. "I'm very happy that our daughter is having twins and that she's settled and happy."

"Then what's wrong?" Eddie asked again. "We always cuddle up?"

Jamie sighed and pulled her in close. She was going to ignore it again, and in a few days he's wake up to her running a fever and feeling sick. Jamie put a kiss on her head then got up. He reached for his cane taking very careful steps without the security of his brace. He tossed two pillows on to the bed.

"Your leg is hurting you that much?" Eddie asked growing concerned.

"Move over and switch sides with me," Jamie told her. "If you aren't going to look out for your health, then I will."

"Jamie it just started and I did my pumps twice today," Eddie replied. "I slept on my arm a few nights agoâ€|"

Jamie got back into bed with a warm massage oil in his hand. "Give it hereâ€|" When Eddie held back her said it again. "Give it."

Jamie took her hand in his, the rings he'd had sized were cutting into her flesh. He shook his head and gently began to rub the oil into the tender stretched skin. Jamie frowned as his fingers left indents on her hand. "You remember when you were having Lila. Your feet and ankles would swell like this and I would rub them for you. Eddie, I'm not sick anymore, baby. Stop hidingâ€|understand me?"

Eddie nodded, "I know, I know, I'm sorryâ€|" She hissed as his hands worked on the tender skin. "I'm going to wrap you and you'll get this arm elevated and you will not leave this bed until I say it's okay. I want this hand back to normal by Wednesday dinner or I'm taking you to Dr. Brady. We have too much going on in our lives now to risk your health. Joey is finally happy, he's getting a commendation, and Lilaâ€|she needs you, Eddie. She will need you more now more than ever."

"Oh that feels so good," Lila moaned as Steven rubbed her shoulders. She had a headache, a common symptom of her pregnancy but couldn't take anything for it.

"I'm glad I can help with this at least," Steven replied kissing her neck. "I'm glad everyone took the news so well."

"My family always did love babies, don't worry, honey your folks will come around, if not now, when they are here." Lila reached up to rub his arm.

Steven sighed and finished his massage, he lie down beside Lila and pulled her close. "I hope so, baby, I really do."

Lila kissed the tip of her husband's nose, "I know they will. These

babies are the best part of us, Steven. The very best part of us."

Lila dozed off in her husband's arms, for him, sleep was a bit more elusive, but finally as he held all that mattered to him in the world in his arms, Steven finally relaxed and slipped off to dreamland dreaming of the life he'd share with his Lila and the babies she carried.

\*\*A/N: The response to the first chapter was overwhelming. Thank you to everyone who has read and reviewed this story! This story is much longer than the previous one as Lila and Steven become parents, Joey and Molly begin to consider a future, and Eddie and Jamie continue to stand together through thick and thin. Please continue to read and review, your feedback is always cherished. \*\*

### 3. Chapter 3

#### Chapter Three

Josh and Maura Tenney sat uneasily in the Reagan living room. Eddie and Jamie had invited them to Wednesday dinner to celebrate Lila and Steven's announcement about the twins. "Eddie will be down in a few minutes," Jamie told them as he stepped off the bottom step and headed to the living room. "I hope you don't mind that we had dinner catered, Eddie's been in bed for a few days."

Lila looked up at her father, "I didn't know Mom was sick, we could have rescheduled."

"She's not sick," Jamie replied. "It's her hand. She's got another blockage but I've been forcing her to rest it and it's going down on its own."

"Dad, if Mom is in bed who's been helping with Grandpa?" Lila asked.

"I don't need help," Frank griped. "I've been running Eddie's tea up to her and Joey's Molly is coming by to check on things. It's good having another nurse in the family. Linda's been by three times since Sunday."

Joey smiled, he was glad Molly was fitting in so well.

Joey looked at his sister and sat on the couch arm next to her. "You don't worry about this stuff, Lil. You have enough work to do making the babiesâ€œI want healthy babies for my nieces or nephews."

Steven smiled, "Healthy babies, that's our goal too, Joe. Mom, Dad, did you see the picture yet?"

It upset Steven his parents weren't more enthusiastic about the impending birth. "Yes, we sawâ€œ" Maura replied. "They areâ€œIt's hard to tell what they are like yet even on these new ultrasounds. Lila, are you going to have any diagnostic testing done?"

Jamie's back straightened but he let his daughter handle the odd query. "Yes, we plan to have the standards tests but unless the doctor thinks I need something more involved no. My mother didn't

have any done and Joey and I were fine. In fact, there's never been a birth issue on the Reagan side of the family."

Joey started to laugh, "Sis, have you heard the story of your birth?"

"I mean I was born healthy," Lila laughed. Josh Tenney's eyebrows rose.

"Lila was born in the middle of Hurricane Megan," Jamie explained. "She was a breech birth and Eddie had a hard time for bit but Lila didn't have any ill effects. My Eddie on the other hand was advised not to have more children."

Maura sighed, "It's not that we aren't happy for you both, we are," she began. "It's just that we both feel Steven and Lila are not ready to have one baby, never mind twins."

"Well, ready or not, hear they come," Eddie retorted from the staircase. She had her arm and hand wrapped and had brought down her pillow like Jamie told her to do. He had really laid into her for not taking care of herself on Monday night and she did not want to upset him to that degree again.

"I don't mean to offend you by saying that," Maura jumped quickly. "But economically, they can't afford a baby or fit one into that little apartment. Lila insisted on living in Bay Ridge, even with Steven's salary!"

Jamie took Eddie's pillows and sat her in his recliner with her arm elevated. "They live in Bay Ridge because it's near Steven's fire station," Jamie replied. "And there's more than enough room here for them if they so choose."

Joey stood up seeing the situation needed to be diffused, "How about we go and eat. I'm sure everyone is hungry, then we can talk about this other stuff, but for now, let's eat and try to be happy that soon this family is going to grow by two."

Joey and Jamie served that night in spite of Eddie constantly insisting she wanted to do it. Frank said grace and the conversation shifted to Steven's latest fire and Joey's new case.

"Jamie, I remember you said at the rehearsal dinner you were planning to retire when the Mayor came up for election, is that still the plan?"

Jamie sighed, "We'll see. If this Mayor is reelected I might consider staying on but a lot of it has to do with my health and Eddie's health. Still, I think that if I do retire, the city will be in good hands with my nephew, Jack."

"If the Mayor appoints another Reagan," Joshua piped up.

"Why wouldn't he? The city has been in the hands of a Reagan or a Reagan trainee for nearly fifty years now," Frank replied. "And it gets safer by the year."

Eddie set her eyes on Maura, "I have to admit, I was thrown a little at the prospect of being a grandmother before I was sixty, but you're

already oneâ€|Is it really as wonderful as Frank claims it is? Grandparenthood?"

"It can be," Maura replied. "But our daughter doesn't live so close by so we don't see the baby that much. I'm sure Lila will be here often when the twins are born. Was it that way for you and your mother, Eddie?"

"No," Jamie said quickly. The wound of losing Peter was still very fresh and he didn't wish to have Eddie upset. "No, Eddie's mother died when she was fifteen and she and her father were estranged for many years. We relied on each other when the children were born with my dad and family as back up. I expect nothing less of Lila and Steven, they will have one another to count on, but Eddie will be here for Lila and for that I'm sure we're grateful."

"Steven, when a baby is born in the NYPD family, all the guys at the precinct get together and throw him a little Daddy showerâ€|do they do something like that for the firemen?"

"They guys throw you a little party, yes. My Captain is thrilled at expanding the engine company's family."

Steven looked over at his parents, pain flashing in his eyes. He remembered the day he called his parents to tell them about the baby.

"\*\*Hey, honey," his mother greeted on the telephone. \*\*

"\*\*Hey Mom, is Dad home? I have some really good news." \*\*

\*\*Maura called Joshua to the phone. "We saw the news of your rescue on TV. Are you getting a commendation son?" Joshua asked.\*\*

"\*\*Uh, no but I do have really great news," Steven was beaming and holding Lila's hand. "Lila and I are going to have a baby, Lila's pregnant."\*\*

\*\*The silence on the end of the line was shocking. It lasted nearly a minute before Steven prompted, "Mom, Dad, say something."\*\*

\*\*Maura sighed, "Well, we expected this eventually but not quite so soon. It's too soon, Steven. You two have barely been marriedâ€|"\*\*

"\*\*Mom, that doesn't matter. I love Lila and Lila loves me. We're going to have baby, your grandbaby. She's due in September."\*\*

"\*\*Well, if you are happy with this Steve, then we are," Joshua replied. "But your mother and I both feel that this is a little too soon."\*\*

\*\*When Steven hung up the phone he sighed, "They aren't happy for us, Lila. I don't understand why."\*\*

"It's always a joy when one of my officers becomes a parent, and when we had these two then that was a party because it was expanding the Commissioner's family."

Another uncomfortable silence fell over the table. Lila was feeling very uneasy and upset. She didn't like feeling like she was being examined. She played with her food more than eating it.

Frank smiled at her, "If your stomach is bothering you, I will wrap up your food and you can finish it later."

"It's fine, Grandpa, thanks." Lila forced herself to eat more.

When the dinner wound down, the conversation ramped up. Maura Tenney was short in stature, not unlike Eddie, but very long on opinions. She glanced between Steven and Lila, watching Lila's interaction with her grandfather before speaking up again. "It's just we're concerned about you two having to struggle because you couldn't wait. How long can the babies live in a small apartment? What about food? Have you thought how you're going to feed them? This isn't just one baby we're talking about; you need double the diapers, the clothes, two cribs and it all adds up. Who's going to pay for it? Steve doesn't make a lot of money to pay for all the necessities plus rent and food for both of you."

Steven gripped his fork sensing the conversation escalating when it should be a joyous occasion. He knew this was going to be a bad idea, and if his mother didn't stop going on the attack, he knew his father-in-law was going to lose his temper. He tried to keep things calm, "We both will mom, we'll work it out." He scowled at her hoping that would end the conversation. Unfortunately Maura didn't have enough say yet.

"Well I'm just saying, Lila you are still in school, and it's social work school so that isn't going to bring in a lot, you are going to need to find other things. Our Steve won't be paying for everything, fire fighters don't make a lot to start until they become captains. We would love grandbabies, but now just isn't the right time for you. You're both still so young, what's the rush? Wait a few years, give these up for adoption. If you can't provide for them, it'd be selfish to keep them."

Steven stole a glance at Lila, her lip was quivering. He snuck a look at Frank and Joey, both were staring at their plates but Joey looked ready to jump if needed. Finally he looked at Jamie's whose gaze was fixed on Lila watching her reactions. He didn't dare look at Eddie. Steven was about to speak up again when his father cut him off.

"We're just trying to look out for you son; for your future, before you end up on the street with nothing," Joshua began. "Your mother is right, give the twins up, you can always have more when you're ready and more responsible. You two can barely take care of yourselves, what are you going to do with two babies? You can start saving now, there's a great trust fund I saw on TV for parents to start collecting towards their child's futures. I can send it to you in an email later so you can look into it for your future children's education."

"You may send it to meâ€|" Steven began. Lila looked up at him, horrified before letting out a sharp sob and running from the table.

Steven stood up to follow but Jamie cleared his throat, "I think

under the circumstances I would be the best person!" Jamie stood and looked over at Joey, sending him a silent message to keep things under control.

Eddie lifted her head and pinned both of Steven's parents with her most piercing Serbian gaze. "How dare you?" she bit out through clenched teeth. "How dare you even suggest it! Steven does well enough at the fire department and my daughter will not be going to work carrying twins! She has an inheritance from her granddad that can help until the babies are older! We will help them if they need it. That is what parents do!"

Joey sighed, "Mom calm down."

"No, Joseph, and if you plan to side against your own blood, you can get out of this house!"

Joey knew to shut up when his mother got that tone and just let her go. However, his claws her unsheathed when Joshua fired back at Eddie, "What would you know about what parents do? Your daughter is a spoiled brat, your son only has success because of his name and youâ€|Our son won't be taking your father's dirty money!"

That stung, Eddie's eyes filled with tears, the shot at her parenting and her father's memory cutting her to the core. Eddie pushed back from the table, knocking her chair over as she went. Joey rushed to follow his mother leaving the Tenneys with Frank.

He looked at the two of them, his standard fatherly stare making them squirm, "Wellâ€|it seems we've lost a few dinersâ€|Steven, would you care to set out dessertâ€|You're folks and I, we're going to have a chatâ€|"

\*\*A/N: Uh oh â€" Frank is going to have his say, lol. The Tenneys don't know the depth of family loyalty their son has married into. Thank you so much for your reviews and staying through this series. I mapped it out the other day and there will be thirteen stories in this series. I hope you stick with me through this saga. \*\*

#### 4. Chapter 4

##### Chapter Four

Jamie found Lila had run to Frank's bedroom, the former study where she used to play as a child. She was curled around herself, both arms protecting her belly as she sat on the old sofa along the wall. Jamie sat down beside her and wrapped his arms around her, cradling her to his chest, "Ssh, it's all right, Kitten, don't pay them any attention at all."

Lila hiccupped and held her belly tighter, "They're my babies," she sobbed in her father's arms. "They're mine, not theirs. They can't have them."

"Ssh," Jamie sighed. "Listen to me." He moved her face to look at his. "No one is trying to take your babies from you. Maura and Joshua, I have no idea why they are acting this way, but they are just spouting their own frustrations. You and Steven will be terrific parents. If you can't afford things right now, you will. Mom and I

were talking and we can help you with a down payment on house and some of the big money. I know you weren't expecting to get pregnant so soon, but trust me!" Jamie wiped her tears. "Those babies are a blessing from God. It's a blessing to get pregnant so easily; saves a lot of heartache."

Jamie kissed Lila's head, "So you dry your tears. No one is taking those babies or making you do anything you don't want to do with them!"

Lila sniffled, "I already love these babies, Daddy and I'm scared that maybe Steven will listen to his parents. He's not in here, you are."

Jamie laughed, "I told him I wanted to come. I had a feeling my Kitten need her dear old Dad to give her a big hug and chase all those bad feelings away." Jamie stroked Lila's hair, "You look so much like your mother, such a beauty. I feel pretty sorry for Maura and Josh out there with Mom, she was pretty mad. Maybe we should go out there and rescue them. They're not used to use Reagans, how we take care of each other, they know not what they do!"

Lila giggled, "Yeah, we should go rescue them. I'm sorry I lost it!"

"Lila, believe me, you will lose it over things much simpler than this. This was your maternal instinct developing. When you have the babies, it will come out more like Mom's but someone attacked your children, your family and you reacted. When you are crying because we ran out of red wine vinegar, then talk to me."

Lila raised her eye brow!

\*\*May, 2024\*\*

\*\*Little Joey Reagan was sitting on the floor in the living room play with his Tonka truck. His Mommy was in the kitchen making dinner, and his Daddy was going to be home any minute now. \*\*

\*\*When Jamie arrived home, he saw Joey sitting on the couch crying his little eyes out. He could hear Eddie sobbing in the kitchen.  
\*\*

"\*\*Joey?" Jamie scooped his son into his arms. "What's wrong little man?"\*\*

\*\*Joey sniffled, "Mommy crying. She said bad word and she's crying."\*\*

\*\*Jamie kissed the side of Joey's head and set him back on the sofa going to check on Eddie. She was almost seven months along with their second child and had been having some pretty crazy crying jags lately. \*\*

\*\*Jamie went to the kitchen and slid his arms around her from behind, "What's wrong with my pretty girl?"\*\*

\*\*Eddie turned in his arms, sobbing into his chest. It was so ridiculous she even batted and eye at this but here she was hysterical. \*\*

"\*\*Hey, hey it's all right," Jamie soothed. "It's all right, baby. I'm here. I'm home. Sorry I'm late, were you scared?" Jamie cuddled Eddie closer.\*\*

"\*\*No," Eddie sniffled. "I wanted to make you a saladâ€|but we're out."\*\*

"\*\*Out of salad?" Jamie asked confused. \*\*

"\*\*Out of vinegarâ€|" Eddie sniffled. "I wanted to make you that salad you like and I can't do it. I wanted to go out but Joey was playingâ€|I'm sorry."\*\*

"She didn't!" Lila laughed at the story not feeling so silly about her own tears.

"She did," Jamie replied. "Mom was never very emotional except when she was pregnant and when she was having you, Joe was always so sensitive to her moods he'd be upsetâ€|"

Jamie put his arm around Lila, "Let's go, there are times to release your feelings and time to buck up and stand your ground, not is a buck up timeâ€|" Jamie kissed Lila's head. "Come on, Kitten. I'm right beside you."

Joe gently knocked on the bedroom door to his parents' room before walking in. His heart ripped apart seeing his mom laying on the bed curled in a ball amid a fit of sobs. He knew the wound of her father's death was still bleeding even if Eddie did a good job of hiding it from the rest of the family, even Jamie. The words uttered from Steven's mother and father just pour salt in it.

"Mom," Joe crossed the room sitting on the bed beside her, placing a hand on her back.

Eddie sat up slightly, knowing her Jamie was busy with their daughter, Joey was the next best thing. She shifted, but didn't speak, only to sob into her son's arms. "My Dad made mistakes but did it..."

Eddie choked again on her tears laying on her son's chest. "Granddad meant well and that is between you and him, not for them to bring up." Joey stroked Eddie's back, "Mom, if you want me to I'll go down there and toss those people out on the asses. Steven too for not speaking up for Lila. He and I are going to have issues."

Eddie laughed a little, she was so proud of how protective Joey was of her and his sister, but the hateful words kept replaying in her mind. "The money he left for you kids..."

"Mom," Joey soothed. "Stop worrying about that. It was that women being stupid. Give the babies up for adoption, who says that about their own grandchildren? They are not nice people, Mom." Joey rocked a little bit, "Now, I want you to just lie down for a few minutes. Put your arm up on the pillows to make Dad happy, and when you feel better, you can come back down."

"I know I've been crying a lot lately, but Joey, I'm not some shrinking violet that needs fussing," Eddie admonished her son.

"I know, but maybe I need to fuss over you a little' Joey arranged two pills for Eddie's arm. When you feel like you won't get so upset come down, I'm pretty sure that by now Grandpa has taken care of the problem."

Eddie laughed, "Can you check on your sister for me? She was so upset, I wanted to go talk to her butâ€|" Joey nodded. "I'll check on her. Rest your armâ€|"

Joey galloped down the steps but stopped when he heard his grandfather's gravelly voice.

As soon as Steven left the room, Frank offered Joshua and Maura his trademark smirk. "I didn't want to say this in front of the boy, he's going to have his hands full with my granddaughter when he gets home for not shooting you down immediately."

"Listenâ€|" Joshua began but Frank cut him off.

"I'm talking now, son and it's only by the grace of God and my son that you're both still sitting at this table. Believe me if this was still my house, I'd have had you both removed bodily, but it's not, it belongs to Jamie and Eddie now so I'll give them that honor if they so desire it. Now, indulge and old, sick manâ€|I'm going to spare you the Catholic dogma, you sit in church every Sunday, I don't have to go through the whole spiel about children being a blessing and Lila and Steven making a vow to accept whatever babies God granted and all that nonsenseâ€|you know it. I'm just going to say thisâ€|when you are as old as I amâ€|and as sick as I am your grandchildren are the ones that are going to take you to doctors, they are going to play cards with you, and do all the things you did for them as kids. Your children, too busy or in my case, older and some sick themselvesâ€|it's the grandchildren!"

Maura sighed, "We never said we didn't want to have grandchildren, all we said was our Steven can't afford to support that family on his own while Lila follows in her mother's footstepsâ€|"

"Thank God for that," Frank spoke up. "Eddie was a wonderful Mom, both of those kids grew up into loving, caring individuals that know how to think for themselves. I'd caution you to refrain from those kinds of comments. Bottom line is this, you're getting a gift, two for the price of one from your son that you love very much and good solid woman that he chose to be his wife. As for the money, Peter Janko earned a lot of honest money too and he's left that money to his grandchildrenâ€|I'm not long for this world, I'm 94 years old with a lung disease, I'm going to kick the bucket sooner rather than later and they will have an inheritance from me. The money isn't the issue, soâ€|what's the real reason you're against this?"

"Those are the reasons butâ€|" Maura sighed. "You've alleviated most of our fears. You are right, if our son is happy then we should be gratefulâ€|We aren't in a position to help them much of course. The Fire Department didn't fare as well under Mayor Poole as the NYPD did and well that stretched out budget a bit."

It suddenly clicked in Frank's head what this grudge was all about. There'd been an article in the Daily News recently that discussed how hard Jamie fought for his stress and EDP training programs during the

fiscal analysis. There had been references to Frank doing the same thing regarding his stress training and how it affected the fire department and other services during that budget year. Joshua and Maura were holding that against their own unborn grandchildren.

"So that's what this is about?" Frank glared at them. "Well I'm sorry you were negatively impacted but I do not regret it and if the fire commissioner had such programs for his men, I'd have gladly let it cut into salaries on my side if it meant saving lives. That saidâ€|this is a pretty lousy way to get back at me! You want me, I'm hereâ€|don't you dare use my daughter-in-law or my granddaughter to do that again!" Frank stood up from the table, his cane clicking as he exited to the kitchen. "Steven, please see to your parents. I don't wish to see them again tonight or for a while. This was all about me and something I did as Commissioner, it had nothing to do with you and Lila. I'm so sorry."

Steven rubbed Frank's back, his trained eye noticing that the older man was struggling. "Frankâ€|Popâ€|Where's your inhaler?"

"Drawer," Frank wheezed feeling his chest locking up. The entire family was insane tonight and it had taken it's toll. Steven grabbed it for him and helped into a hard chair. "There you go, try to breathe inâ€|I'm going to get Jamie."

Before Steven moved, Jamie and Lila headed out of the study. Both immediately ran to Frank's side, "Grandpaâ€|" Lila tilted Frank forward, "Let your body goâ€|just relax all your musclesâ€|" She rubbed his back gently, they were all accustomed to Frank's spells now.

When Steven did not come out of the kitchen, Joey poked his head in, "Stevenâ€|your folks want to sayâ€|Grandpa!"

Josh and Maura watched from the kitchen doorway as the family helped Frank. Joey looked up at Maura, "Please get my mother, she's the only one that can really calm him down."

The anger aside for the moment, Maura hurried upstairs. "Eddie!" she called out. "Eddie!"

Eddie heard the urgency in Maura's voice and hurried to the door. "What's happened?"

"I'm so sorry, but there's something wrong with Frank, Joe said to come and get you."

"Oh, Godâ€|" Eddie hurried down the stairs. She turned on a heel glaring at Joshua, Maura was the mouthpiece, but Eddie knew enough about their family dynamic to know Joshua was at the root of the problem.

"I hope you are very proud of yourself that you upset a pregnant woman and a sick old man, great job!" Eddie knelt in front of Frank. "Hey, Dad, look at meâ€|lean against my chestâ€|"

Jamie and Lila stood back as Eddie worked her magic. In fifteen minutes, she had Frank breathing better and with Steven and Jamie's help, he was on his way to bed with his oxygen. He had more and more of these spells lately, Eddie made a note to call his doctor and have

his daily medications adjusted.

Eddie looked up at Maura and Joshua, "It was nice having you, I'm sorry it went the way that it did. Hopefully, in a few weeks when the kids decided if they want to know the sex of their twins we can try this again, for nowâ€|goodnight." She opened the door and stood waiting for them to take their leave.

\*\*A/N: No one wants to deal with Frank Reaganâ€|He had their number long before they were ready for him too. The Tenneys are not very nice peopleâ€|Steven will have all the family he needs with Jamie, Eddie, Joey, and Frank never mind the other Reagans. This rode to parenthood might have it's bumps but it will be worth it in the end.  
\*\*

## 5. Chapter 5

### Chapter Five

Lila had been silent most of the ride home. Steven knew she was put out with him for not speaking up at dinner, but he'd been caught so off his guard, he hadn't known what to say.

"Lil," he began as they entered their small apartment. "I'm sorry I didn't say anything I justâ€|"

Lila raised her hand, "I do not want to hear it Steven! Tonight was a disaster. You had to know they were going to pull something like that!"

"I didn't," Steven protested. "I knew they weren't happy about the twins but I didn't know they were going to do this. I'm sorry."

Lila turned around angrily unmaking their bed, "Okay, I believe that you didn't know what they were going to say but I can't believe that you just sat there and let them say we should give up our babies! OUR BABIES!" Lila threw his pillow at him with all her weight.

"Lila," Steven moved closer. "I love you and I love the babies, honey. I justâ€|"

"You just weren't man enough to speak up! You let them attack me, attack my family, and say we should give our babies up and you just sat there! My grandfather was more use than you were!"

"I know," Steven sighed. "I knowâ€|I'm sorry honey."

"You know something, sorry just doesn't cut it! If this is the kind of support I can expect from you, I might as well go back with my parents, they were far more supportive of me than you were today. Maybe you feel like your parents do!"

Steven sighed, "Lilaâ€|" His denial was not coming fast enough for her.

"You do!" she snapped. "You do feel this way, don't you? You don't think we're ready for these babies either! You don't want to be a father! Get out!"

Steven was shocked, usually Lila was calm and even tempered, but tonight she was a real Reagan. "Lila, I am sorry!" Steven moved and pulled her close. She fought his grip with all her strength. "Let me go! I will call my brother toâ€|"

"Sshâ€|stop and listen!" Steven loosened his grip. "I love you, I love the babies, but I love and honor my parents as much as you love and honor yours. I didn't want to disrespect them but I didn't want to hurt you either. I'm sorry I didn't speak up, and I will from now on. You and the babies mean the world to me, sweetheart."

Steven kissed her head, "I promise you I will never ever do this again. I won't ever let you hang like that again. I'm sorry."

Lila let her body go limp, she was tired and still hurt, but she let Steven cradled her in his strong arms. "Let's go to bed, okay? The next ultrasound, I want to go with you. I'll rearrange things so I can be there."

Lila sighed as Steven let her over to their bed. "I know your work is important but I'd like you to be at the twenty week sonogram. They will be able to see their little features and we can find out the sexes if we decide we want to."

Steven pulled the covers over Lila, she was often very tired from the pregnancy. "We'll talk about that baby, you sleep well. I'll lock up and be right back."

Lila was crying when Steven slid into bed. "What's wrong?" he asked softly not sure if it was the same thing or something else.

"Grandpa," she sighed. "That was one of his worst in a while. He's getting sicker andâ€|I want him to see the twins. I'm upset that your parents that don't even want the twins might see them and my grandpa that wants so badly to hold his great grandchildrenâ€|might not make it."

Steven sighed, "He'll make it, and he is the strongest man I know. He will hold those babies."

Lila laid her head on Steven's chest, "So tiredâ€|"

Steven stroked her golden hair. "Sleep, baby. Sleepâ€|"

When Lila dozed off, Steven texted his father. "We must talkâ€|meet me for coffee. Pick a timeâ€|"

"Cough cough. Wheeze. Cough cough coughâ€|Wheeze Cough."

Eddie woke to that sound from a sound sleep. Jamie was sitting up beside her. "He's been doing that for at least fifteen minutes."

"I better go down and check on him," Eddie sighed. "You get more rest." She kissed his temple. "I'll call you if I need you."

Eddie slid out of bed and padded downstairs to check on Frank. "Dadâ€|you okay?"

Frank was coughing and wheezing, holding his breathing machine tubing

in his hand. He'd been doing the machine but wasn't getting much relief.

"Can't breathe," Frank wheezed as Eddie climbed onto the bed. She held the nebulizer and turned up the delivery. "Lie back and try to breathe in as much as you can." Eddie held his hand and stroked Frank's brow. "Easy!"

Jamie could hear the coughing continue, he pulled on his robe and brace and headed downstairs, "Eddie?"

"He's pretty tight, if his oxygen level doesn't come up in a few minutes, I'm going to call a bus." She held the pulse ox machine and watched the number hover at about 88%. Frank was getting incredibly tired trying to breathe in the medication.

"I'm calling," Jamie sighed seeing his father fading. Eddie held Frank tight, supporting his back. Jamie dialed 911, "This is Commissioner Jamison Reagan, I need a bus at my home forthwith. My father is having trouble breathing."

Not ten minutes later FDNY medics were taking Frank out of the house on a stretcher. Jamie quickly got dressed and went in the bus with Frank while Eddie called Erin and Danny to meet them at Lutheran.

She arrived twenty minutes after Frank was brought in the ER. Jamie sat next to Frank's gurney, he was on an oxygen mist trying to break up the tightness in his chest. His oxygen level said 91%. Frank's mouth was open as he struggled for air.

Eddie came up behind Jamie and slid her arms around him. "How you doing, Dad?"

Frank responded by moving his hand side to side. The stress was too much for him today, Eddie felt her anger sore. "You're going to be okay, Dad. The doctors will fix you right up. Did they page Dr. Burg?"

Jamie nodded, "Woke him up out of his bed, he's on his way in."

"Good," Eddie replied. "I have been trying to get him in for a week. The medications aren't working any more. He's working too hard to breath, he's so tired."

Eddie stroked Frank's forehead. Slowly the medication began to work. Danny and Linda arrived just as the nurse's removed the mist and fixed an oxygen mask to Frank's face. "Dad, are you okay?"

Frank only nodded his head, he was too tired to talk. Erin arrived next, she hurried to her father's side. "Dad, what happened?"

Frank smiled again, still not speaking enjoying the feel of oxygen in his lungs.

"He had a couple of attacks today," Eddie explained. "This one didn't resolve so we called for help. He's doing a lot better, he came in at 88 and now he's up to 94."

Erin rubbed Eddie's arm, she was grateful for her sister-in-law.  
"Dad, have you been taking your medication?"

Frank nodded his answer as his pulmonologist, Dr. Burg came in. "All right, let me have some time to examine Frank. I'll be out to speak to you soon. Jamie, I assume you will be staying?"

Jamie nodded as Eddie and the rest of the family headed to the waiting room.

The doctor was with Frank twenty minutes before coming out with Jamie by his side. Eddie could read the news on her husband's face.

"We're going to admit Frank for some more tests, but it's evident just from the increase frequency of his attacks that the COPD is entering the end stage. I'd like to put him on oxygen for sleeping and if he's going to be active during the day, I'd like him to use it then too. It will help him breathe efficiently and get a benefit from doing that. I'm going to increase his inhaled steroids as well as the oral steroid."

"What's the prognosis here doc?" Danny asked point blank. Even in his mid-seventies he was a force to be reckoned with.

"Most people in the end stages live 2-4 years, but given your father's age, six months to a year," Dr. Burg replied. "That's not to say that with increased meds, a moderate exercise program, and the oxygen therapy we can't significantly improve that outlook. I wish I had better news, but at this point this is the best we can do."

Erin sighed, "Thank you doctor!" When the doctor left to see about Frank's admittance and tests the family moved together.

"I can stay over a few nights," Erin offered. "If he's getting up and down a lot you two will get tired out. I can write at night and sleep during the day."

Eddie smiled, "If it comes to that we'll appreciate it Erin, but maybe let's just start with Saturday night so you can help us with getting him to church on Sunday?"

Erin nodded as Linda spoke, "I'll come by a few times a day and check him over, make sure he's stable so we can see an attack coming and ward it off."

Jamie thanked her for that. He knew when he took the house Frank's care as he aged would fall on his shoulders, but he was grateful to have his family to back him up and offer support just as Frank would have asked them to do had he been able. Sometimes, for Jamie, being a Reagan was a pain, he still liked his privacy, but times like these, there was no other last name in the world he'd rather possess.

\*\*A/N: Poor Frank! He's getting a little too old to get so riled up but no worries, he'll be hanging in there for a bit. Thanks to everyone who is reading and reviewing so steadily, it makes the words flow so much faster. Thanks to Lawslave, Werks, and Yanks20 for their feedback and direction with this story. I required more assistance this installment than the previous ones. There are many more installments to go, I hope we'll all be together for all of

them.\*\*

## 6. Chapter 6

### Chapter Six

Joey and Jack stepped back after pulling open the door for their ladies as they were taught from a young age, that's what was done in order to be gentleman. After the girls went inside the boys followed them to a table. Jack moved to pull out the chair for Rita giving her a smile.

"Ahem," Molly cleared her throat waiting for Joey to do the same.

With both girls seated Jack took the chair between Joe and Rita. "So would you like drinks to start?" Not waiting for an answer Jack signaled the waiter ordering drinks for the table.

Rita leaned in folding her hands on the table feeling her heart speed up anytime she looked at Jack.

"So Molly how's work?" Joe asked after sipping water from his glass. Molly gave a noncommittal shrug of her shoulders looking past him at the next table. "What's wrong?" Joey asked his detective sense smarting.

"Those are the family of a boy I am caring for now," Molly replied. "And has me to wonder if they are here, who is there?"

Rita smiled, "You must have a very hard job, Molly. I can't imagine how difficult it must be to work with so many sick people."

"Actually," Molly replied. "It's something very special, being with a person in their final moments, helping their families understand what is going to happen so they are not afraidâ€|"

Their bottle of wine arrived. Jack poured for each lady then for himself and Joey. "Let's have a toast, to a new and upcoming marriage and a new upcoming relationship, maybe both bring happiness."

"Here, here," Molly replied and toasted the glasses. They ordered some calamari and their main courses. "So Rita, how is the wedding coming?"

"It's good," Rita replied. "My assistant is a huge help in planning these things. She's going to do the cake, she does fantastic work. We're having a hard time setting a date."

"Yeah," Jack laughed. "You think you can have a chat with your Dad about that?"

"You have his ear more than I do," Joey laughed. "You know how long it took him to sign off of special victims."

"Well, I'm glad he thought it through," Molly replied. "You don't need to be exposed to all of that horror. Babies being attacked by men on the streets and he's running head first at it like it's the

pot of gold at the end of a rainbow."

Jack took a sip of his wine, "Special Victims takes a special man, Molly. I firmly believe Joey, as my cousin and a detective, is that kind of man, but I have to ask you, what is it like working for Captain Benson, she's been with SVU since God was a boy. Commissioner Reagan is getting ready to force her retirement if she keeps interfering with the field work."

"He should talk," Joey rolled his eyes. "My mom is trying to get him to retire but he won't. I'm hoping when my sister's babies come."

"That is such a blessing," Molly beamed. "Is she going to call a boy Peter after your Grandfather?"

"If she did that our mutual grandfather would flip his lid," Jack replied. "There was no love lost between Peter and grandpa. He only accepted it because of Aunt Eddie."

"Jack, I'm surprised with your mother's background she is not taking care of your grandfather, that when he got sick that they didn't shift things around," Rita observed.

"My father and grandfather have a very similar temper," Jack explained. "Believe me Uncle Jamie is the right person to be there, my mom is going to help out now that he's getting worse. We pull together."

"Well, I'll be happy to help out," Molly piped up. "I love your grandpa, oh, the stories!" Molly smiled and clapped her hands.

Joey looked at the beauty next to him. It had been a long time since her felt this way. He had really cared for Debbie but she hadn't made his heart skip a beat like Molly did.

The talk turned away from family back to Jack and Rita's wedding. During the meal, Jack asked Joey to be a groomsman and he agreed. "I'm going to ask Steven too, to make him feel a part of the family."

"If he still is, if Lila had a say in this!" Joey laughed remembering the look Lila was shooting at her husband. "You know that look my dad gets right before he explodes?"

"Yeahâ€|the one that tells the entire room to duck and cover?" Jack laughed.

"That's the one, Lila inherited it, in spades. She is not her mother's daughter. After that little even on Wednesdayâ€|I'm surprised Steven isn't singing soprano."

"The dinner went that well?" Rita asked remembering Jack having to cancel a date because of the dinner with Steven's parents.

"It was a disaster," Joey laughed. "But you got to hand it to grandpa, for a man the doctors are saying might be on his way out he's a tough old Irish mutt that goes without a doubt."

"Dad!" Jamie said firmly. "You have to keep the cannula in your nose! It doesn't do any good blowing oxygen on my floor."

"Jamie, calm down," Eddie soothed. "It's hard to wear those things, you know that."

"It's hard to wear it and I don't need it!" Frank snapped. "I got all upset at those idiotic people, it was my own fault. I'm not sicker than I was Wednesday!"

"Dad," Erin interjected gently. "Yes, you are. We all heard the doctor, and it upsets all of us, but you have to use the oxygen when you are resting or sleeping so it's easier to breathe when you are up and about. Now, if the nasal one is bothering you!"

"It's not bothering me! You are all bothering me!" Frank snapped slapping at Jamie's hands as he tried to put the oxygen back on. They three younger Reagans decided to let Frank be for the moment, he's settled down then one of them would try again.

"All right, fine choke to death all night long, I'm not getting up to help you!" Jamie yelled as they left the room.

Eddie sighed. Erin moved to go after Jamie, "Let him go," Eddie advised. "He'll calm down. He's still steamed over the dinner, he hasn't spoken to Steven since they left. When Jamie called to tell Lila about Dad, Steven answered, Jamie hung up and called back until Lila picked up the phone."

"That's not like Jamie at all," Erin commented. 'Maybe he needs to see his neurologist."

"No," Eddie replied. "He's fine that way, he has always had that Irish ice in his veins. I think you and Danny just never saw it, he was always the baby, but when it came to protecting me, protecting our kids, Jamison Reagan was sometimes the hardest man you could ever meet."

Eddie fixed tea for herself and Eddie, "The fact is, he's scared. He knows that if we lose Frank he's going to have to compete with Danny over being head of this family. Frank is grooming him to be the Reagan Patriarch but Danny, he's always seen himself as the leader."

"I don't want to debate any of this, I want to live in the little girl fantasy that my father will live forever."

Eddie sighed, "It's nice, but when you do that you fall pretty hard. I'm fortunate in some ways, when it hurts too much I can just pretend, I didn't see my father that much, but for you, Jamie, Dannyâ€|me too it's going to be a significant loss."

Erin reached across the table and rubbed Eddie's hand, "This looks a lot better."

"Yeah, it's getting there. When you have cancer as badly as I did and you get the surgery I had, you don't get a full recovery, you know? You live with it, my arm will never be normal, they don't tell you that stuff a lot."

Erin nodded, "I never told anyone this, but I had a scare a few years back. Thank God it was nothing but I thought of you the entire time. Lesser women would have died, but youâ€œI know we had our differences, most of that was my fault, but I admire you, Eddie. And there is no one I'd rather have looking after Dad on a daily basis, even with Linda's training, you have the fireâ€œ!"

Eddie smiled, "That means a lot to me Erin. You want some of the best ice cream in the world?" Eddie got up and went into the freezer. "I hide this from Jamie, the cholesterol is ridiculous but he never looks behind the beef patties soâ€œ!" Eddie produced a carton of Belgian chocolate ice cream.

The ladies indulged while Jamie laid on the bed upstairs. He'd been tied up pretty tight since Wednesday dinner. Upsetting Lila was enough for him, but to learn from Joey that Eddie had been reduced to tears while Steven said nothing was too much for him. What kind of man did he entrust his Kitten to? He would never let his Eddie hang out to dry like that. It hurt his father's heartâ€œ!

Laughter from downstairs made him smile, Eddie and Erin getting alongâ€œ! that was music to his ears.

Eddie came up an hour later, "Hey, you all right?" she asked sitting down on the edge of the bed.

"Yeah, just a little tired," Jamie sighed. "Did you get Dad toâ€œ?"

"He put the cannula in himself and was sound asleep when I checked him," Eddie informed Jamie. "You need to apologize to him for taking your fear and your anger at yourself out on him." Eddie stood up and began her nightly routine.

"You know me so well," Jamie sighed. "I'm sorry but that would be the day when I would leave you hanging like Steven left Lila. I'm really questioning his love for her and his ability to be a good husband and father."

Eddie sighed, "Jamie, you are the perfect husband and father, not everyone had a good role model like you did, honey. Lila loves him, you think my father was thrilled when I married a cop. He wasn'tâ€œ!"

"No, but I was good to you. When anyone stepped out of line with you, I was there for you Eddie. I would die for you, I don't know if Steven would for Lila and it bothers me."

Eddie laid down and snuggled up to Jamie's side, "Talk to her, babe. She's coming tomorrow to see your dad, just talk to her and tell her what is hurting your heart."

Jamie sighed. Eddie was right, he looked down at her and stroked her cheek. "We have Dr. McLean, remember?"

"After Dr. McLean," Eddie smiled. "We'll have reason to come home happy, I'm sure of it. I love you so much, Jamie."

Jamie tried to sleep, but it was elusive. He has far too many worries to relax, but with his wife in his arms he knew when he was ready to

share the burden, he wouldn't have to do it alone.

\*\*A/N: Papa Jamie is still stewing over his baby getting hurt. Does anyone else think that when Jamie's temper flares it's worse than the others? Hope you all enjoyed this chapter. I tried to use some of the newer characters we'll get to know through this series. Pillow Talk will be updating later tonight. \*\*

## 7. Chapter 7

### Chapter Seven

"Eddie," Dr. McLean's nurse called her back for her annual exam. Jamie was by her side as he had been for nearly every one.

They sat down in the doctor's inner office holding hands just as usual. Nine times out of ten, they got great results, no signs of recurrence. A few times, there had been high blood tests and suspicious shadows but they got through it together.

The doctor came in five minutes later. "Good to see you, Eddie and first let me say that I am so sorry about your father."

Eddie smiled, "Thank you. He was suffering, and he's in a better place now."

Dr. McLean smiled, "Yes, he is but I'm sure he was happy to have his family in the end. Now, tell me about how you've been feeling."

"I'm fine," Eddie replied as usual.

The doctor frowned a little, Jamie sat up straighter, his detective eye still sharp. "Any fatigue? Back pain? Knee pain?"

"Well, yes, but I'm fifty eight," Eddie replied. "Fifty eight in a two story house with a sick father-in-law, pregnant daughter, a husband that often needs shoe tying, who wouldn't?"

Jamie squeezed her hand, the doctor was driving at something. "Is it back?"

Dr. McLean shook his head, "No, no, it's not the cancer, the CEA-125 and the scan are clean."

"So what's with all the questions, Doctor? I'm a cop thirty four years, I think I know when someone is beating around a bush," Jamie pressed holding Eddie tighter.

Dr. McLean began writing, "This is a referral to a nephrologist, Dr. Kamal Gupta, he is highly recommended and I have worked with him a number of times. Eddie, your creatinine levels have come back elevated for the third time. Each time I've marked this and each time they are slightly more elevated. When I first noticed the elevation, it was slight, a 1.5, then a 2.2, not it's a 3.1. The prolonged use of anti-cancer drugs and the chemotherapy can over time lead to kidney disease. I'd like you to see Dr. Gupta and rule that out. If you are experiencing those symptoms, I would make the appointment sooner rather than later."

Eddie looked at her doctor, her blue eyes flashing, "You're telling me all the time I worked on staying healthy, I was making myself sick?"

"Not necessarily," Dr. McLean replied. "There are other factors that can cause this but let's get it checked out. I'm going to change your tamoxifen this time as well to a different drug. The side effects are a little rougher but it's easier on the kidneys. It's a newer pill but I've had a lot of good luck with it."

Jamie had the script filled before she left the medical arts pavilion. As they walked to the car, Eddie read the side effects list. "I hope you're ready to be married to Shamu again."

"Eddie," Jamie rolled his eyes.

"Well it says right on the top of the list, weight gain, swelling of the face, neck, arms, legs and feet, irritability, increased thirstâ€|I might as well let the damn cancer get me!"

Jamie stopped dead in his tracks pulling Eddie's hand so she faced him. His blue eyes thinned at Eddie upset when she talked like that.

"Stop Eddie I don't ever want you to say that again. If the drugs will help you stay alive but cause weight gain that's better than the alternative. "

Eddie shook her head in disagreement knowing how hard it's going to be again as she gained weight. She was of small stature, the extra pounds interfered with her stamina, her dexterity, her overall quality of life.

"This is ridiculous Jamie! All the side effects; the medication is just causing more problems."

Jamie reached for her hand pulling her closer to him letting his hands rest on her waist while meeting her eyes. "No matter what happens I'd rather have you here with me as long as we can. We don't know for sure what it is yet but if it is kidney problems we'll take it on together. I love you Eddie, and I want you here as long as possible."

Eddie wiped her eyes, "Jamieâ€| Iâ€| "

"I want you with me, Eddie. If you're fat or thin, swellingâ€|on more medications than we can count, I don't care," Jamie declared. "You once told me that you loved me and as long as I understood you when you said it and in some way could say it back that was all the mattered. Why is it any less true for you?"

Eddie didn't have an answer for that, all she knew was she was tired of suffering from medications designed to prevent her from suffering. They got into the car and headed for home, Eddie keeping silent, angry that Jamie was forcing this issue.

Frank was resting in the living room when the couple arrived, "Take your pill now," Jamie instructed pouring her a glass of milk. "It says it'll upset your stomach if you don't take it with milk."

"Oh no," Frank's face fell as he took in Eddie's teary eyes and Jamie's firm tone. "No, not again!" The old man covered his face.

"No, Dad, it's not like that," Jamie explained hurriedly. "Dr. McLean changed Eddie's meds that's all and she's kind of upset about some of the effects. Where's that referral card, I'm going to make that appointment."

"Jamie, can we just slow this down," Eddie begged. "Please."

"No, Eddie, we cannot slow this down. This is your health, I'm not waiting to make this call. It can take months to get into a good specialist!" Jamie took the card and made the call.

No one heard Lila enter through the kitchen door. She heard her father's clipped tone and her mother biting back in equal measure. Her parents rarely fought so it was rough for her to hear them doing it.

Jamie was pacing back and forth on hold with the doctor's scheduler. Eddie just sat on the sofa, tears running down her face. Jamie wasn't even listening to her. Frank got up and put his arms around his "daughter". "Hush, now! Tell me what happened."

Eddie explained about the medication, the list of horrendous side effects, and about her kidneys. "Jamie's making such a big deal, he hasn't listed to a word I said."

Frank sighed, "Jamie's scared, and he just loves you so much."

Eddie sighed, "He might love me, but he used to respect me."

Lila was listening to all of this, her hand on her belly as it was just beginning to round. She'd come to speak to her father and see if her Mom wanted to shop for maternity clothes with her.

She listened as her father began speaking into the receiver, "Hello, yes, this is Police Commissioner Reagan, I'm calling to make the first available appointment for my wife, Edit, Dr. McLean referred us to Dr. Gupta."

Jamie listened, "That's really not acceptable, she's had steadily rising number for a year, she needs the first available!"

"Two weeks is fine, thank you." Jamie wrote the information down and hug up. "Two weeks from today," Jamie told Eddie. "I'll fix it with Meyers so I'm available to go with you."

"You can go, I'm not going!" Eddie stood up. "You never even listened to me about this Jamie. It's my body, those levels aren't that high!"

Neither one was aware of Lila.

Lila stood shocked in the kitchen imaging the worst hearing only half the conversation. Her shock slowly turned to worry thinking her mom was placed on medication because to her cancer coming back. Lila didn't remember Eddie's cancer well, just that it had left her father and brother in an endless cycle of fear that it would one day return

and snatch Eddie from them. Quickly, Lila choked back a sob before anyone heard and placed a hand on the counter to steady herself, trying to calm down before approaching her parents.

It took several deep breaths for Lila to finally stop sobbing enough to enter the living room with a forced smile on her face. Jamie could see the worry in his daughter's eyes, the redness there and the streaks on her face. As a seasoned cop and father, he knew when someone especially someone in his family, was hiding their feelings.

"What's wrong, Kitten?" Jamie was immediately concerned something happened between her and Steven or with her pregnancy.

Lila took a deep breath as she crossed the room taking a seat on the couch beside her mom, reaching for the older woman's hand. Eddie had always been so strong after all they've been through. "Is mom sick again? I came in and heard you two talking about medication and doctors."

"Oh Lila, it isn't like that," Eddie gasped upset her daughter heard them arguing. She quickly gave Lila's hand a gentle squeeze to reassure her daughter before explaining what the doctor said. "But we're not sure what is causing those numbers to go up, it might not be anything really serious. We made an appointment for two weeks. I'm sorry you had to hear us fighting, I just don't want to go on this new medication is going to make me fat and cause other problems worse than the illness itself."

Lila looked between her mother and father as Jamie sat behind Lila on the couch offering a comforting hand on her daughter's shoulder.

"Mom, if the medication is going to help you even if it makes you gain a little weight, then who cares. If it's better for you then none of us care about weight, as long as you're alive. I want you to see your grandkids when they're born."

Instinctively Lila ran a hand over her belly, thinking about her babies meeting their grandparents. She knew they were both excited to become grandparents and Frank to become a great-grandfather again.

Eddie sighed, looking down at their joined hands. "The weight gain is ugly, but it also causes my back and legs to hurt and my knees to ache. Your father still needs help a lot of days, even if it is just simple things, and you're pregnantâ€¦ Having that kind of joint pain and swelling, I'd be too much of a burden. I don't see why I can't stay on the pill I was already on, if it is damaging my kidneys, my body is just worn then. I won't be a burden to my children. My father wasn't, Grandpa isn't, Grandpa Henry wasn't, I won't be."

Lila pulled her hand out of her mother's very gentle grasp shocked at the words Eddie just spoke. "Mom, don't ever say that! You're not a burden, we love you very much. We'll all do what we can to help, I won't be pregnant forever you know! I don't want you thinking that, I need you Mom." Lila brought her hand to brush Eddie's cheek a tear sparkling in her eye as the two embraced.

Jamie bit back some emotion seeing Lila so open in her expression of love for her Mom. Jamie rubbed Lila's back. "I'm so sorry you had to find out like this, Kitten. We weren't going to tell anyone until Mom

saw the specialist."

"Well, now that I know you need to tell Joey or he'll be angry and hurt," Lila replied. "You can tell him in your own time. We want to know all this stuff, Dad. Mom, I'm here, why don't you go up and rest and I'll help Dad get something in the slow cooker. When you're feeling better, we can plan a shopping trip. I'm wearing Steven's pants with the cuffs rolled up."

Eddie laughed, "I'm feeling fine, Lila. I don't need to rest, but having dinner together would be really nice. Is Steven working?"

Jamie's face darkened at Steven's name. "In fact, now might be a good time for you and Dad to have a little chat." Eddie stood up, "Frank, how about you and me start on dinner and let these two talk."

Lila looked at Jamie, "Dad, I know you're upset about what happened!"

"I'm not upset about what happened," Jamie corrected. "I'm upset that Steven didn't defend you, baby. He sat there, let his parents say terrible things about you and the babies and didn't say a word! I have a serious problem with that. What kind of man did I marry you off to?"

"Daddy," Lila sighed. "Steven was angry and caught off guard. He texted his father to have lunch and he laid things down. He told him that if he or his mother used me or the twins to get back at you or grandpa again or even spoke ill of us again, he would be dead to them. I know it hurt him to say so, but he meant it. Steven was the right choice for me, and you were right to support it."

Jamie nodded, "All right, if you say he did the right thing and the cat just had his tongue! Okay. If he's off, invite him to dinner, this family has bigger problems than worrying about the Tenneys. If you are happy and safe, that's what counts."

Lila rubbed Jamie's leg, "Are you all right with this thing with Mom?"

Jamie sighed, "I'm scared to death. We always knew this could happen but I never actually thought that it would. I'll do whatever I have to do to make sure Mom is okay, including retire. If I have to nurse her through every day! do you feel that for Steven?"

Lila's eyes misted, "Yes, no matter what life brings us I want to be by his side and he wants to be by mine. I'm fine, I'm grown up and going to be a mom myself." Lila stood up and caressed Jamie's cheek. "Stop worrying."

Jamie got up and went to check on Frank and Eddie while Lila placed a call to Steven. He was working that night but sent his love. "I'm working the next two nights, if you want to stay with your folks. If that will make you feel better.

Lila sniffled, "I just hate hearing her talk about herself like that. My mother broke her back fighting this disease and she succeeded, it's not fair the medicine that was making her well gave her something else. I think I will stay, she's on new pills and with my

grandpaâ€| "

"Be careful, Lila," Steven warned gently. "You have very precious cargoâ€| "

Lila sighed and put her hand on her belly, she'd do anything for her twins. "I love you guys," she told them. "If Mommy ever got sick like Nanaâ€| I'd fight for you too." Lila smiled, she finally understood her mother's loveâ€| and as long as that existed, she didn't have to worry, Eddie might threaten to give up, but she never would leave her family without a fight.

\*\*A/N: Cancer is a difficult animal, and it never quite let's you go. Thank you to the reviewers and to all who have been reading.\*\*

\*\*To my guest reviewer â€" I usually reply to reviews through PM but I can't so I will try my best to reply this wayâ€| In a future story, Frank and Erin will have a conversation explaining his decision in grooming Jamie for taking things over. Frank sees Mary and himself in Jamie, Jamie has an exceptional mind, he has an intellect that far surpasses any of the previous Reagan patriarchs and is a slightly more level headed when the chips are down. I'll let that scene in story six explain the rest I hope you are still reading by them.\*\*

\*\*Hope everyone has a great Monday. See you on Tuesday!\*\*

## 8. Chapter 8

### Chapter Eight

"Let's stop and get a lemonade," Eddie suggested as she and Lila passed an Auntie Anne's pretzel shop.

Lila agreed, "Sit down, I'll get it." Lila put the bags on a chair and went to the get in line. Eddie rubbed her sore knees and thought about this day. It was a very rewarding experience. Later they were meeting Erin and Linda for dinner since Steven was working nights.

Today Lila had purchased maternity shorts and capri pants, maternity blouses and what Eddie termed maternity shoes, one size up and in a wide with. "If you carry like I did, your feet will swell and with twins doubly so," Eddie warned.

Lila returned with two lemonades and one pretzel for them to share. "What else is on your list?" Eddie asked. In truth she was getting very tired but didn't want to speak up about it. "Undergarments I'm sure are becoming necessary. I liked to wear undergarments that were all one continuous piece on the job, they were comfortable."

Lila nodded and sat back, "Mom, I uhâ€| Steven's parents were right about one thing that night. We can't live on only what Steven makes. We need two incomes if we are really going to make it workâ€| "

"Lila, I have talked all this over with your dad and we both feel you should not go back to school or look for work until the babies are at least a year old. That said, I understand about the money. Dad and I

plan to give you your share of Grandad's estate. He left everything to me and originally you and Joey would inherit that upon my death, but you need it now so we will give you your share now and Joey his when he marries and is ready to start a family of his own," Eddie replied.

"Momâ€œ!"

"Let me finish," Eddie continued. "Also, you will be needing a bigger house. We know Bay Ridge is your preference so Dad and I will provide a down payment for a house near us and Grandpa will supplement the payments for two years unless he's gone then your inheritance will help cover the payments."

"Mom, Steven will not accept this much financial help!" Lila groaned.

"It's not help," Eddie replied. "This money will be yours one day, but I don't want you and your family to live in shoebox until I'm dead. You need this money now, enjoy it now."

Eddie was firm and punctuated her decree with a bite of pretzel.

"I'll talk to him," Lila replied. "We are still arguing over finding out the sex. We are supposed to say yes or no at this week's appointment, so when they do the 20 week scans they don't mess us, but I suppose if we can't decide now we can wait. I know you waited with me, but did you find out for Joe?"

"No, Dad wanted to wait," Eddie replied. "He remembered Aunt Erin found out with Nikki but they initially told her that Nikki was a boy. She has a blue nursery, blue everything. Your uncles and Dad were working on it nonstop to get it the right color," Eddie laughed finishing her drink. "There are bathrooms there, why don't you go so we don't have to stop on the way to the lingerie store."

Lila agreed, she had to pee constantly, she felt since the twins were conceived. "Are you good for a few more stores, Mom?" Lila asked.

"I am fine, go pee so you don't wet your pants like I used to do," Eddie instructed and began to clean up the table. When Lila was out of sight, she popped three Advil to ease the ache in her back and legs, she didn't want to miss a minute of this.

Arm in arm, mother and daughter shopped for two more hours until they had purchased nearly every maternity item Lila would need and some she wanted. Jamie would have a second stroke when the credit card bill arrived but Eddie new how to handle that.

Eddie drove them back to Bay Ridge in time for Lila to rest and Eddie to supervise Frank's nebulizer treatment. "You are hurting badly," Frank stated as he watched Eddie's movement. "When does that bottle say those things go away?"

"It doesn't, I suppose I'll get used to it, Dad," Eddie replied. "Jamie is looking into other medications when he has spare time and we'll bring the list to Dr. McLean if this one is too hard to deal with but it is one of the only ones so far that doesn't have an impact on kidneys."

"Well, just remember I might have to do this mist and all but I can get around all right most days, you don't have to wait on me. In fact, you can put your feet up and relax and let me get some drinks and all now and again."

"Thanks, Dad, it's sweet but you are in much worse condition, this really isn't so bad and it's temporary too. Now, what do you want for supper tonight, Jamie has a dinner meeting and Lila and I are meeting Erin and Linda in Chinatown?"

When Eddie and Lila arrived at the restaurant they agreed on Erin and Linda were already waiting outside.

"Hey we're you waiting long?" Eddie asked with a frown.

"No, Linda just got here too," Erin answered for both of them, following Eddie inside.

The waiter immediately showed them to a table passing out menus before giving the girls time to look it over. Once they all decided and orders were taken Linda folded her hands leaning in excitedly. "So Lila, are you getting excited yet?"

"Yeah, I am," Lila replied. "Now that I'm in my second trimester and the nausea is finally going away, I am a little more relaxed. Mom and I went shopping for maternity clothes today."

"We got her some really cute things," Eddie replied. "It was nice to get out."

Lila smiled, "In a few weeks Steven and I going to start a registry and house hunting."

"Oh, where are you going to look?" Erin asked.

"Bay Ridge and Fort Hamilton, near Mom and Dad and near Steven's engine company," Lila replied. "It'll cost but we worked it all out."

"Yeah, I heard there were some fireworks at that dinner. You don't listen to those people," Erin told her godchild.

The meals came and the ladies started to eat, "Mom, watch the soy sauce!" Lila scolded. "Dad saidâ€"

"Dad said to watch the sweet and sour!" Eddie spoke up and nudged Lila under the table.

"You having blood sugar problems, Eddie?" Linda asked.

"Oh no," Eddie replied. "But it gives me indigestion, Jamie doesn't like it because I get up and down so much."

Erin nodded, "Jamie always hated it when his sleep was interrupted. When I had Nikki, she had the worst colic, worse than Jamie and he had it badâ€ I stayed at the house so Mom could help me, her screaming was getting to our neighbors. One night, Jamie is home from school, he comes stumbling down the stairs, picks Nikki up out of Mom's arms, meticulously puts her in her baby seat and set her on the

dryer, then without a word he stumbles back upstairs and goes back to sleep."

"Did Joey or I have colic, Mom?" Lila didn't like the sound of colic, perhaps times two.

"Joey," Eddie replied. "He had it very badly, but your father was usually able to soothe him. Joey was the right length and your Dad the right height, he got the gas bubble. I felt like such a failure that I couldn't comfort my baby boy. I had no mother to show me though, I'll be here to help you."

"I was spared the colic," Linda piped up. "But my Jack, when he was teething, he had the worse diarrhea. He would explode out of his diapers, I remember one night just sticking him the sink and letting things go as they may."

The older women laughed and continued to reminisce about their children's antics, Lila started to get worried. If these three incredible ladies that loved her and nurtured her had such struggles, how could she do this?

Lila was usually quiet on the way home. "Are you all right, Angel?" Eddie asked.

"I'm fine, I'm just a little tired. Can you drop me at my house?"

"Of course," Eddie replied smiling. "Sometimes Chinese doesn't sit too well when you're pregnant, but you wanted it soâ€|"

Lila nodded, "Thanks Mom."

Eddie dropped Lila off at the house then turned for home. Steven was just settling into being home when Lila let herself in. Taking one look at her husband, Lila burst into tears.

"Lil?" Steven put his sandwich down and rushed to take his wife in his arms. "Lila, what's wrong?"

Lila was speaking but the sobs were muffling her words. All Steven made out was parents were right and horrible mother. "Oh baby, no. No babyâ€|" Steven rocked her tight and kissed her head. "You are going to be a fabulous mother, you have a fabulous mom and you will be a best mom."

"They are all so good and there was so much wrong," Lila sobbed. "We'll have two of themâ€|and you're gone so muchâ€|"

"Hey," Steven cupped Lila's cheek. "When I am home I'm home a lot too. We will do this together, you and meâ€|we are going to be fine."

"I love you," Lila whispered. "I really do. You almost make me believe it."

"Lila, we never thought we'd put the wedding together baby, with your father sick but we did it. Your family pitched in and we made it work. I know your mom will be here every spare minute she can or you'll be there to get help at first. We aren't alone in this, baby."

How about I make my sandwich and you tell me about the stuff you got today? Sound good?"

Lila nodded, "What about I show you some of the stuff I got today?" she asked with a gleam in her eye thinking of the cute lingerie Eddie helped her pick out.

Steven got her meaning and smiled, Lila's libido returned in spades since she became fourteen weeks and he had no complaints. Steven dipped his head and kissed her, "Sounds like the best idea of the day."

\*\*A/N: Some female family bonding for all of you. I am trying to incorporate other characters but Jamie and Eddie are still my favorites. As the story goes on, Lila and Steven will of course take center stage. For those of you wondering about Steven's parents, have no fear the Tenneys will resurface and Jamie will handle the issue Reagan style. \*\*

\*\*Special thanks to Lawslave, Werks, and Yanks20, each of these ladies have helped me in one way or another with this story when writer's block, health problems, or the fact that I never had kids so can't relate to pregnancy has gotten in the way.\*\*

\*\*Also thanks to my reviewers, I had a rough health weekend so I failed to reply to your reviews for Friday and Sunday, but I promise I will tonight if I haven't done so already. Next update on Thursday, then a three day Pillow Talk story.\*\*

\*\*This Monday, 5/2, I will begin posting a new story that will update on Monday and Thursday. Pillow Talk will have Friday updates, and weekend updates if it is a multiple chapter episode. This story will continue to update every other day. \*\*

End  
file.